

REGULAR ORIGINAL FILING

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**WEBSITE CHAT ROOM HAVING IMAGES DISPLAYED  
SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH INTERACTIVE CHATTING**

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**WEBSITE CHAT ROOM HAVING IMAGES DISPLAYED  
SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH INTERACTIVE CHATTING**

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**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

5        The invention relates generally to the field of interactive chat rooms on the Internet and, more particularly, to such chat rooms having replaceable images displayed along with corresponding text.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

10      Currently known and utilized chat rooms on the Internet include text input by two or more users usually located at different locations. This text is subsequently displayed on a real-time basis for providing a viewable transcript of the written conversation. This interactive displayable text is commonly referred to as chatting. In one form of chatting, a well-known celebrity or subject matter expert (SME) provides a portion of the text. These chat rooms also display the nicknames of the users so that a real time display of current users of the chat room is available.

15      Although the currently known and utilized chat rooms are satisfactory, they include drawbacks. It is a slogan that an image produces 1000 words. In this regard, the currently and utilized chat rooms do not provide for interactive display of images. This obviously limits the usefulness of such chat rooms.

20      Consequently, a need exists for chat rooms having interactive display of images.

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**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention is directed to overcoming one or more of the problems set forth above. Briefly summarized, according to one aspect of the present invention, the invention resides in a website for providing interactive communication between first and second users comprising (a) displayable text

provided by the first user which text is directly or indirectly input and subsequently displayed in real time; (b) displayable text provided by the second user which text is input and subsequently displayed in real time; and (c) an image provided by the first user, which are directly or indirectly input and subsequently displayed in real time so that the first user shares viewing of the image with the second user.

These and other aspects, objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be more clearly understood and appreciated from a review of the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments and appended claims, and by reference to the accompanying drawings.

#### **Advantageous Effect of the Invention**

The present invention has the advantage of permitting of images to be inserted into interactive chat rooms. The present invention also has the advantage of permitting the images to be changed so that the images and text correspond to each other. Still further, the present invention includes the advantage of permitting high resolution versions of the images to be obtained for permitting enhanced viewing of the images.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a computer system for implementing the present invention thereon; and

Fig. 2 is a graphical illustration of a chat room.

#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

Referring to Fig. 1, there is illustrated a computer system 10 for implementing the present invention. Although the computer system 10 is shown for the purpose of illustrating a preferred embodiment, the present invention is not limited to the computer system 10 shown, but may be used on any electronic processing system. The computer system 10 includes a microprocessor-based unit

20 for receiving and processing software programs and for performing other processing functions. A display 30 is electrically connected to the microprocessor-based unit 20 for displaying user-related information associated with the software. A keyboard 40 is also connected to the microprocessor based unit 20 for 5 permitting a user to input information to the software. As an alternative to using the keyboard 40 for input, a mouse 50 may be used for moving a selector 52 on the display 30 and for selecting an item on which the selector 52 overlays, as is well known in the art.

Referring to Fig. 2, there is shown a chat room 65 of a website of 10 the present invention. A predetermined portion 70 of the chat room 65 is designated for Internet nicknames and the like. In this regard, the Internet nicknames of each user currently using the chat room 65 are displayed in the predetermined portion 70. A text display portion 75 is adjacent the predetermined portion 70 and displays written text input by the users. In one embodiment, one 15 of the users is a well-known celebrity or subject matter expert (SME) in which the other users ask questions and the like of the celebrity. To ask a question, the user from a remote terminal, such as a computer 10 at a residence, inputs via a user interface 40 and 50 the question to be asked of the celebrity or SME. This is sent to the website over the Internet and the website displays the user name along with 20 the associative question. Likewise, the celebrity or SME responses to the question by inputting text into their computer 10 via a user interface 40 and 50, or by requesting the operator of the website to input text directly via interface 40 and 50. This response is also sent to the website over the Internet for display of the celebrity's or SME's name and corresponding response.

25 The website also includes an image display portion 80 in which an image is input by an operator of the website. The operator has available a plurality of images, and the operator selects an image based upon current conversation between the celebrity or SME and users. Alternatively, the celebrity or SME may input the images. When the discussion changes, the operator 30 replaces the current image with another image representative of the current

discussion. The operator replaces the images as many times as deemed desirable. Those skilled in the art will recognize that, in lieu of the operator inputting an image, the user may send images or the Internet for display in the chat room.

The user may place the selector 52 of their computer 10 on the  
5 image and click the mouse for requesting the image to be enlarged. The website receives his request and displays the enlarged version of the image 85 to the user.

A caption area 90 is also disposed on the chat room 65 for  
permitting a summary of the image to be presented by the operator. The summary  
90 would preferable be replaced with different text substantially simultaneously  
10 with the replacement of the images. Alternatively, the celebrity or SME may send  
the summary over the Internet to the operator for input and display.

It is to be understood that the website of the present invention uses  
software for its operation, and such software is readily reproduced by those skilled  
in the art from a reading of the above description.

15 The invention has been described with reference to a preferred  
embodiment. However, it will be appreciated that variations and modifications  
can be effected by a person of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the  
scope of the invention.

**PARTS LIST**

- 10 computer system
- 20 microprocessor-based unit
- 30 display
- 40 keyboard
- 50 mouse
- 52 selector
- 65 chat room
- 70 predetermined portion
- 75 text portion
- 80 image display portion
- 85 image
- 90 caption area

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